

Halvorson Applauds Help for over 55 Million Americans

Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) is reminding senior citizens and veterans that a one-time payment of \$250 will soon be mailed out as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Beginning Thursday, May 7, adult Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will start receiving the stimulus money, which will be distributed on a rolling basis throughout the month of May.

"We continue to see the positive effects of the ARRA in the economy - and this time it will help more than 55 million senior citizens and veterans in the U.S.," said Halvorson. "I've already heard good news stories that describe how the \$250 will help lessen the impact of this difficult economic environment in the district - it reaffirms my support for this legislation."

Individuals must be eligible for Social Security or SSI during November 2008, December 2008 or January 2009 in order to receive payment. Those receiving Medicaid in care facilities are not eligible. Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries also qualify for a one-time payment of \$250.

"The point of the stimulus bill is twofold - to lower taxes for working Americans and to create more jobs. It's also designed to help Americans deal with the harsh effects of the economy - and presenting an additional \$250 to senior citizens and veterans is just another example of our decision to make an investment in America and its people."

The one-time \$250 stimulus check will automatically be sent to eligible individuals - no action is necessary. Eligible beneficiaries who do not receive a payment by Thursday, June 4, are encouraged to contact their local Social Security office. More information is available online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/>.